

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Book of Psalms (*Psalms 119: 104-105, 127-128*)

Through Your precepts I gain understanding; therefore I hate all false ways. Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path. **Truly I love Your commandments more than gold, more than the finest gold.** Thus, I follow all Your precepts; every wrong way I hate. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection - God's teachings and laws define evil, and adherence to it protects us from deception and relativism

When God and all that He stands for are not given their proper place in the world, confusion, error and sin set in.

Confusion, error and sin are the hallmarks of the work of the Deceiver (Satan). Satan currently reigns as Prince of the World because the world has largely rejected the truth of the existence of God and has rebelled against God's laws and commandments. Blinded by demonic deception, evil is not recognized as evil, and sinful acts have been promoted as human rights and legalized through legislation. For instance, abortion and euthanasia have become so widely accepted that people do not give these evil acts a second thought. However, this does not reduce the evil of these acts in the eyes of God Who will have the final say in the judgement of every soul. *And even though our gospel is veiled, it is veiled for those who are perishing, in whose case **the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that they may not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).***

Conscience not properly informed can lead to error and wrong judgement (cf. CCC 1801). Many times this advice is given:

Just follow your conscience. This is a reasonable advice if we can remember that not all conscience is regulated by the divine law that is planted in it by the wisdom of the Creator. *His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose Voice echoes in his depths* (CCC 1776). Our Church Catechism teaches us that the following can lead the conscience to make erroneous judgement: (i) ignorance of Christ and His Gospel, (ii) bad example given by others, (iii) enslavement to one's passions, (iv) assertion of a mistaken notion of autonomy of conscience, (v) rejection of the Church's authority and her teaching, (vi) lack of conversion and of charity (cf. CCC 1792). Thus, our conscience must submit to and follow God's laws and teachings as taught to us by Jesus Christ in order to form the correct judgement.

Moral relativism, a popular but false ideology, is a great danger to the salvation of souls. In simple terms, moral relativism

says there is no such thing as absolute right or wrong but everything depends on the circumstances, culture etc... It presents a false impression of neutrality and equity but discourages the freedom of the mind to seek moral truth which is absolute and unchanging whether it is believed in or not. **Christ and His Word are the eternal, unchanging truth (cf. John 14:6, John 17:17) which we can absolutely trust.** Moral relativism is a man-made false ideology, based solely on faulty human thinking outside God's wisdom. As such, it cannot and will not recognize evil as evil. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI had frequently sounded the warning on the danger of moral relativism during his pontificate. In his homily to the 2005 conclave that eventually chose him as the successor of Pope John Paul II, he warned those attending, *"We are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything as for certain and **which has as its highest goal one's own ego and one's own desires.**"*

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path (Psalm 119:105). God's commandments and laws define for us what is

evil in the eyes of God. It shows us the way in which we must walk. We can put our full trust in the teachings of our faith because they are not human opinion but divine teachings which stand forever. If we adhere to God's Word and the divine teachings of Christ, we can be protected from deception and relativism. It is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth that will help us to discern the truth of the difference between good and evil. God's laws, commandments and precepts provide an infallible and true standard by which all deeds can be adjudged as seen by the eyes of God. Thus, the Word of God is a light for our path. *We must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice. Thus, we form our moral conscience (CCC 1802).*

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You are the eternal, unchanging Truth. You are the Truth that sets all sinners

free in the highest sense: spiritual freedom from sins which are the bad fruits of deception and falsehoods. All human thinking must submit to God's laws and precepts in order to remain in the truth. Outside of God's truths there are only error, confusion and sin. *Lovers of Your law have much peace; for them there is no stumbling block (Psalm 119:165).* In this world of false lights, Your Word and divine laws show us clearly the way we should walk. Help us walk in the path of Your commandments so that we will always remain in Your truth. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for us. Help us keep our soul in the state of grace. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk